

the way for millions to follow. In 1896, when she defeated her own husband to become the first female State senator elected in the United States, she made history for our State and for women across the country.

Martha's contributions have been far-reaching in Utah, but in no way should the changing of the statues diminish the contributions of Philo T. Farnsworth as one of America's greatest innovators. I have always been proud to show the thousands of constituents who visit the Capitol each year the Farnsworth statue. This iconic sculpture has been a wonderful representation of the traits that our State was founded on: hard work, innovation, and industry.

Farnsworth was born in 1906 in Beaver, UT, a small rural town settled in 1856 by Mormon pioneers traveling the road to southern Utah. His early pioneer roots encouraged a work ethic and can-do attitude that propelled his lifelong love of learning and invention. From a very young age, he imagined and later implemented scientific designs, including a machine to convert electric power in his family home and a tamper-proof lock, but it was in a high school chemistry class in Rigby, ID, that he began to sketch an idea for a vacuum tube that would forever change the media and entertainment landscape. Farnsworth's sketch was the blueprint for what would eventually become the modern-day television.

Farnsworth had a special knack for taking big ideas from paper to practice—first, as a student at Brigham Young University, then later as a businessman. He didn't just stop with television. In fact, his scientific mind made great inroads in other areas of advancement, including sterilizing milk using radio waves.

In later years, Farnsworth continued research in further technologies, including radar, the infrared telescope, and nuclear fusion. In fact, in 1967, he moved back to Utah to run a fusion lab at Brigham Young University, which was later relocated to Salt Lake City operating as the Philo T. Farnsworth Association.

Unfortunately, Farnsworth had to endure legal battles throughout his career regarding patent claims. He also faced great financial hardship. He passed away from pneumonia on March 11, 1971, in Salt Lake City, UT, just as having a home television set became the norm in most American households. Sadly, Farnsworth did not live to see the full impact of his revolutionary invention, but his influence lives on.

Whether you are gathering friends to watch the latest playoff game, laughing at a comedy series, or keeping updated on what is happening in the world, your life has been touched in one way or another by Philo T. Farnsworth. Who would have thought that the rough sketches of a day-dreaming schoolboy would one day change the world?

Utah is proud of its native son, Philo T. Farnsworth. He was not only the "Father of Television" but truly one of the most brilliant minds and creative innovators of the 20th century. His statue will be missed here in the Capitol, but through his singular invention, Farnsworth's influence in our daily lives will be ever present.

Farnsworth's statue has represented—and will continue to represent—the honor and appreciation Utahns have for his monumental life achievements. His image has honorably served our State well for almost three decades, and I am hopeful it will find the right home. It has been a pleasure sharing the Capitol with the image of Philo T. Farnsworth.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, while my vote would not have changed the outcome, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to invoke cloture on the Toomey amendment. I was questioning nominees at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on nominations at the time of the vote.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the Senate adopted amendment No. 2276 to H.R. 5515 by voice vote, though I opposed this amendment and would have voted against it. This amendment would further study the feasibility of establishing a permanent U.S. troop presence in Poland. We should be looking at where we can reduce our footprint abroad, not where we can expand it. As our government continues to pile up debt, we should be asking our NATO allies to step up and prioritize their own defense. The more that we assume the security burden, as this amendment would do, the less incentive these countries will have to contribute their share toward our mutual defense.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 124 on the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. On vote No. 124, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 125 on amendment No. 2885. On vote No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted yea on amendment No. 2885.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 126 on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended. On vote No. 126, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA BONINE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an excellent member of my staff, Melissa Bonine, who is moving on to a new challenge. For the past year, Melissa has coordinated daily operations in my office, helping to create order out of the chaos of my schedules.

Having worked for Congressman Rick Boucher, Senator Jim Webb, and Secretary Castro at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Melissa has many friends on Capitol Hill, and she was an immediate asset to my office. With a cool head under pressure and excellent diplomatic skills, Melissa has kept the trains running on time and put out the occasional fire. She has worked with the rest of my staff to manage priorities and coordinate each day efficiently while assisting in long-term planning.

Our entire team will miss her counsel and sense of humor. I am sure she will make a tremendous impact on her next project, an exciting new advocacy group where she will continue to fight for progressive values. I hope her new job will also give her some more time with her husband, David, daughter, Penny, and cats, Rex and Willie Nelson, and I look forward to hearing about the extraordinary work she does next.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO NICOLE SHERMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Nicole Sherman of Roosevelt County for her dedication to the Sherman Inn in Wolf Point.

Nicole began her career at the Sherman Inn in eighth grade where she served as a waitress. At the time, both of her parents worked at the Inn. A few years later, her parents bought the Inn, and she joined the family business full time following school.

Today, Nicole is the general manager of the hotel and runs it with her sister-in-law. They pride themselves on being a family-owned and operated business, one that gives back to the community frequently. The Sherman Inn sponsors any events they can around the community.

Nicole is focused on offering a great experience for her customers. Whether they are visitors from all over the country or locals looking for a good meal, she strives to provide a memorable experience to her customers. She instills this mentality in the business through the 45 hard-working employees that the Sherman Inn employs.

I congratulate Nicole on her success in the business. The community of Wolf Point is stronger with the staple that is the Sherman Inn, and that would not be possible without Nicole's passion for the business.●